

SO CAL DX BUL



MARCH 2009

The Newsletter of the Southern California DX Club est 1947

The Southern California DX Club is a proud group of men and women of the world wide Amateur Radio community that enjoys communications with other Amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to it's members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be used as time and space permit. Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the Club. Any questions regarding this newsletter or it's articles should be addressed to the Editor.

(Some articles may be copyright.)

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month except April, June and December. Other times may occur

Repeater: W6AM/R145.48,(-) 100Hz PL

Please check the Club web site at

<http://www.scdxc.org>

Who's new???

Bill Kendrick, N6RV

Thats who.

Our new Editor.

Give him your support



Making friends all over the world using the magic
of Amateur Radio

Sponsors of the International DX Convention at Visalia,
since 1949





THE PREZ SEZ

Hi Folks...Well - here is it March already and another month to get out there and DX as much as you can! Although conditions are not the greatest, you can still make contacts here and there.

We had a large turn out for our February meeting with the added bonus of a raffle for the ladies. Two prizes of \$75 were drawn for two lucky ladies.

Arnie's choice for the speaker of the night was Marty Woll N6VI who gave a interesting presentation on his DXpeditions. Very informative stuff.... I have also been talking with our webmaster Jim Shrine N6DHz. He says we are using a new server and possible bugs to be worked out, so please be patient. Also don't forget to make all arrangements for Visalia so you can be there!! Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Tom Paquette N6OT, President SCDXC

Attention All DXers

The 2009 International DX Convention in Visalia,
Will be held April 17th to 19th, 2009

This is the 60th Anniversary of this event, which promises to be even more special this year than it has been in previous years. Special Attractions this year Include:
Contest Academy by the Northern California Contest Club and
Radio Arcala Project with OH2BH & OH8NC

Special Guest and Banquet Speaker: The Hon. J. Scott Redd (K0DQ), Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (ret). Breakfast Program: Desecheo, KP5 DX-Pedition
For Complete Program Information, see <<http://www.dxconvention.org/>>

Hurry!! Special Pre-registration Price Ends March 20, 2009!!

ARNIE'S BLARNEY FOR MARCH 2009

I'm sorry that I missed our February meeting but I had a family emergency that required my attention on Thursday evening, February 12. My spies report that the meeting was well attended and everyone was riveted by Marty Woll's stellar presentation.



Congratulations to Linda Shryne and Rowena Wolfe who were the lucky winners of the ladies' Valentines Day drawing. I do not know who were the fortunate winners of the monthly meeting raffle prizes. I trust the "chosen ones" were happy with the booty.

Since my editorial last month when I asked for input regarding the direction of the club, I have received a grand total of three (3) emails with suggestions for future activities. I took these observations to heart and shared them with the Board members. With only three responses out of a possible pool of more than 100, I can only assume that everything is "peachy keen" and our members are happy with the current club orientation.

Our next meeting is March 12. Our guest speaker is a stranger to no one in the DX club. Bob Grimmick, N6OX, along with an international, seasoned team of radio operators, has recently returned from an adventure in Tunisia (TS7C). He will fill us in on the Dxpedition highlights and some of his personal exploits that you won't read about in official publications. Bob is an entertaining orator, a wonderful amateur photographer, and over the past several years has been one of the most frequent participants in Dxpeditions. I know we are all in for a treat. Bring your opera glasses to this meeting. I expect Standing Room Only because of the quality of our speaker and because I have invited a host of local Los Angeles and Orange section radio clubs to join us.

Speaking of Dxpeditions, the K5Desecheo operation was active this past month of February. What an impressively well run event this was. I hope everyone who wanted to make it into their log was successful.

I want to recognize a very special person in our distinguished circle – our very own president, Tom Paquette – N6OT. Tom had a working IC-730 transceiver gathering dust and asked me if I knew anyone who could put the radio to good use.

Fortuitously, I had just met a new ham in my neighborhood who just qualified for a Technician license and wanted to experience 10 meters as well as do a bit of SWLing on HF. Tom brought the radio to me; Wayne (W6IRD) provided a power cord and I delivered the transceiver to KI6VEN who was overwhelmed with gratitude to Tom and the DX club. This transceiver is on LOAN to Phil until he acquires his own radio. It will then be available through the SCDXC for the next newly ticketed ham who is in need of a transceiver. Maybe Phil will be the next new member of our venerable group. This generosity represents the true spirit of amateur radio. Way to go Tom!

By the time you read this column, the deadline may have passed for nominations for the Dyer of the Year and the Rookie of the Year (Clipperton Award). We have only one applicant for the Clipperton Award and I have not seen any nominations come to the attention of the Board for Dyer of the year. If you have any inclination of making a nomination, time is of the essence! Go to the SCDXC web site and review the qualifications for these awards and see the list of past recipients.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Don't forget the informal pre-meeting dinner at the Roll 'n Rye deli in Culver City. There should be some pretty outrageous tales to spread around the dining table after the ARRL CW DX contest of February 21-22.

73 de Arnie N6HC, Vice-President, Southern California DX Club

Conversation: CROATIAN TELEGRAPHY CLUB - EUCWA

Croatian Telegraphy Club

E-mail ctc@hamradio.hr

Web www.hamradio.hr/ctc <<http://www.hamradio.hr/ctc>>

Croatian Telegraphy Club invites you to become a member and welcomes membership applications from radio amateurs - telegraphy lovers across the world .

If your application is submitted by E-mail (no form - only name, callsign and wish to become) membership is free because it is the Club's principle of supporting CW which is far more important than any financial consideration .

Take a look at www.hamradio.hr/ctc <<http://www.hamradio.hr/ctc>>

Chairman Den - 9A3FO



New Kid on the Block THE EDITOR

Hello there! Bill, N6RV, your newbie editor here! First I would like to thank Dave Bell for his dedication and effort as editor. I can see that it is akin to herding cats. Personally I think it will be fun and a learning experience. Nevertheless I will never fill Dave's shoes!

Thank you to the board, particularly Tom for this opportunity. I do not know who is going to suffer more for it. Honestly, I will make it fun. I never expected a voting position out of it. I will do my best to vote in a manner that serves the best interest of the club.

Before I dive into various subjects I need to know has everyone filled out their band / modes with the K5D DXpedition? Right now they are sitting at 75,000 plus QSOs. Hopefully Europe and Asia are working their share at this sunspot bottom.

For those of you who do not know me I have been licensed since 1967. I am a life long Los Angeles resident. I have held the calls N6RV, WK6V, WB6ZHT and WN6ZHT. I enjoy DX contests, DXpeditioning, and, of course, DXing. My country count is 350/337 (deleted/confirmed) with P5, North Korea, outstanding. I even kicked in for the last operators antenna! Now that I am retired I will submit the remainder of my QSLs for honor roll. Currently I have been concentrating on the 160M and 6M bands where old DXers go to fade away. I have been a member of SCDXC since 1980 or so. Neal, K6SMF, was membership chairman. I served as membership chairman and contest chairman in the past under Marty, N6VI and Edgar, N6OU. The first meeting I attended as a regular member was at Turners Hof Brau where Art, W6EA, presented his story about operating from Saudi Arabia. In the late 60's and early 70's, during our high school years, a bunch of us would drive up from San Pedro to poke fun at the old guys. We would mimic their phonetics, "W6 Alpha Ocean Alpha name is Frank" or "K6 Sugar Victor Lima" in a shrill high voice and "W6 America Mexico you're five nine. Are you calling me?" It was a different time with many tales and adventures. I attended college in the mid and early 70's. The radios were packed up out of sight and girls were well in view! I married my lovely wife of 32 years, Beckie, in 1977 and we began doing what every new married couple does, go into debt and have children! To Beckie's, amazement a Collins S-Line mysteriously appeared in the second room of our two bedroom duplex. Truly I was a closet ham during our romance.

She had no idea what she was in for! I have been blessed. She tolerates our particular kind of madness very well. Since it was her father's property I was able to put wire antennas on the roof. Within a year we purchased a house and the towers and yagis followed. Thirty one years later after a long continuous career in satellite design at Hughes I called it quits and decided to direct my energies toward my hobbies. I am sitting at the same station I have had for the past 31 years. It seems like yesterday.

Enough about me! My job, as I see it, is to ensure a quality BULLetin. As editor I will make every effort to obtain quality articles from you the members and the international community. I am a staunch supporter of keeping anything divisive out of print. If you submit an article I request that you ask one question, well ... three questions. Is it appropriate? Will it tick off more than 2 people? (You know you can't please everybody.) Finally, and most important, is it a good read? If the answer is yes you have a winner. If the answer is no then make it so.

Some suggestions have been made to spruce up the bulletin. First, it was suggested that we have a meet a member column where one of the club members is interviewed each month. Since hams by nature are not lacking in the gift of gab this may take up a few lines! Another column that makes sense is something similar to the 50 years ago and 25 years ago columns in QST. If anyone has a repository of old bulletins I would like to scan them and start on that project. Also for those remaining charter members I would like to pick your brains on various interesting and provocative events in our illustrious past. Finally I would like to reinstitute a technical column. I would like input from everyone regarding what you would like to see in it. We could tap experts from time to time to write a brief article and have a hints and kinks type of column where members discuss some of the construction projects they have found useful. Right now I am looking for a quadruple folded beverage that will perform nearly like a full size one and fit on my lot, any ideas?

Well I have spent my 800 words for this issue and I hear P49V working the contest through my headphones sitting on the other side of the room. I am really excited and energized about this task. I hope I can motivate several of you to get out and share your knowledge and experience. We all have something to contribute.

Bill, N6RV, Editor So Cal Bul
kendrick.w@ca.rr.com

DX IN REVERSE: REMOTE OPERATION OF AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION

Jeff Wolf, K6JW



At last year's IDXC in Visalia, there was a presentation on remote operation of an amateur radio station. It got me thinking about what I might be able to gain from setting up for remote access to my shack. My XYL and I often go away for long weekends and take other, shorter trips during which it hardly seems worth going to the trouble of dragging along a portable station. And then, sometimes, even when I do take the fixings for a station, we end up in hotel settings where it just isn't practical or even workable to set up for satisfying operation. So, I began to wonder, what if I had the option of accessing my home station when we're on the road?

The setup presented in Visalia didn't seem quite right for me, so I pursued my own approach which, although not unique or very exotic, seems to work quite well. After I mentioned this at the January SCDXC meeting, several members asked me about it, and so I thought I'd outline it here.

Planning is important, and I decided that the critical elements for me would be to have all-mode capability and to include transceiver, SteppIR, and rotator functions as well as packet DX spotting capability. All this turned out to be fairly straightforward to set up, with only a few minor wrinkles that took some tinkering to iron out. Here's how I did it.

The transceiver, a Yaesu Mark-V FT-1000MP Field, is interfaced to the computer in the usual way, except that the connection also includes SteppIR's Y cable that allows antenna tuning to track with the radio's band/frequency changes. The basic setup for this had been implemented just after the SteppIR was installed and has been in flawless operation for quite some time. It required no alteration for remote access. Digital mode operation is mediated through a Rigblaster with the standard setup except that the speaker output from the Rigblaster (i.e., to the computer's speakers) is switchable to divert it into the accessory audio input of the Mark-V. I used a switch because a simple Y splitter out of the Rigblaster didn't seem to provide enough audio drive for the Mark-V. Although I could probably resolve this by placing diodes in the Y arms, I decided that a switch was just as easy and possibly less likely to cause other problems. Computer generated CW is passed through a W1GEE parallel port keyer interface to one of the two key jacks on the radio.

Power on/off for the radio, rotator, SteppIR controller, and 2 meter radio-TNC setup for DX cluster monitoring is accomplished using a USB-controlled AC power controller made by Computer Peripheral Systems, Inc. I decided not to include linear amplifier operation in my remote scheme because I felt uncomfortable running high power when offsite, and also because it would have added additional complexity to the setup that I simply did not think worth the effort. I might add amplifier control later, however.

With respect to software, radio control for SSB and CW is accomplished using a combination of TRX-Manager and my logging program, LOGic8. Digital modes are run using Digipan and MMTY.

The base station computer is a PC with Intel 2.8 GHz dual core processor and 1 gigabyte of RAM, running Windows XP. I purchased it as an HP refurbished unit at Fry's in December 2006 for \$550, and it's been running without problems as my dedicated station computer since then. The internet connection is via a Linksys internal wireless board and Linksys wireless router. My ISP is Cox. Currently, the computer must be left on when I leave home. While solutions are available to allow cold booting, I have not yet felt compelled to go to the trouble and expense of adding this capability to the setup.

The remote computer is an HP laptop. Access to the home computer is via logmein.com, which offers free accounts permitting the type of access necessary for remote station operation. Audio for receive and transmit is mediated via Skype, a free audio/video service best known for permitting free telephone calls over the internet.

A simple USB computer headset or, as I prefer, a Heil boom mic headset, completes the remote setup, since CW is sent from the laptop's keyboard.

Operation is simple. Access the home computer via logmein.com and bring up TRX-Manager, LOGic8, Skype, and Windows HyperTerminal (or some other terminal program – your choice). Turn on the power to the Mark-V, rotator, SteppIR controller, and packet setup via a simple command sent using HyperTerminal to the AC controller, and operate just as if you're sitting at the rig but operating all functions via the computer.

A few notes. First, not all the functions of the Mark-V are controllable by computer. Mic level and processing, for example, must be set locally, before leaving home. Also before leaving, I have to flip the radio, rotator, two meter radio, TNC and Astron power switches on, and the AC power controller must be set by command to its power off state. It's also important to remember to flip the switch to divert computer audio output from the speakers to the transceiver if I'm going to want to work SSB.

Since CW is keyboard generated on the laptop, no special preparation is required (note that you may not be able to hear a transmit sidetone, which really doesn't matter when using a keyboard), and PSK-31 and RTTY are run just as one would expect. The SteppIR controller box for the spooled elements has one of those %@#*&! "soft" on-off switches, but the SteppIR folks have developed a work-around for this. If the controller is powered up for at least three minutes before shutdown, it will "remember" that it was on, and the unit will come alive when power is restored. Thus, it can be run through the U-X3 switch and does not have to be left on all the time while I'm gone. I just have to turn it on for at least three minutes before leaving home so the memory will be set. Beyond these considerations, once I got past a few other "idiot behind the wheel" issues, everything worked just fine.

I did decide to take advantage of recent sale at Fry's and add an uninterruptible power supply ("UPS") unit to the station in order to keep the computer and SteppIR controller running in the event of brownout or short power failures while I'm away. (Two or more power failures at less than three minute intervals will cause the SteppIR controller memory to be lost, making the unit impossible to power up remotely.) At \$140 after mail-in rebate for 50 minutes of continuous emergency runtime, the UPS unit seemed a reasonable way to protect the system's functionality from short Edison glitches – not uncommon in my neighborhood.

Remote access has a number of potential uses besides being desirable when portable DX operation for fun just isn't practical or feasible. It could be used during illness, when one is unable to sit at a rig, or to access a club or shared station when hams can't have antennas of their own. It also has significant potential for emergency operations. I'd encourage anyone interested in the possibilities to give it a try. It's pretty cool to be able to do real ham radio using a laptop from just about anyplace that offers internet access, and it's neither overly complicated nor particularly expensive to implement a fully functional remote access setup.

Finally and as previously noted, there are other ways to implement remote access. The Ten-Tec Omni VII, for example, has a built-in Ethernet port, and I'm sure the Flex series of radios offers great potential for full remote capability. There's other control software out there, too. For those interested in yet another approach to remote operation (the one presented in Visalia last year), check out <http://www.w4mq.com> for a setup that makes excellent use of the Kenwood TS-480. Above all else, have fun with a great way to get on the air and not miss out on working rare DX just because you happen to be vacationing in some faraway place without local access to a usable station.

73, Jeff, K6JW
k6jw@scdxc.org

A Rescue

SS REPUBLIC Wrecked ship



[History]

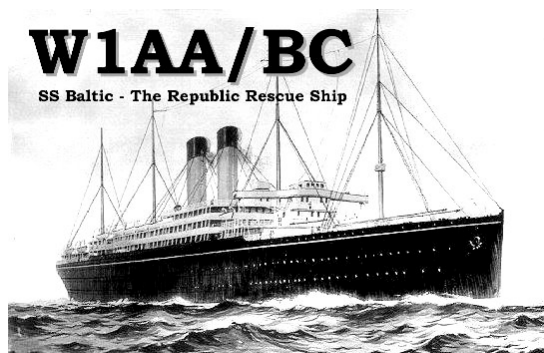
On 23 January 1909, the RMS Republic was severely damaged when rammed by the SS Florida off Cape Cod in Massachusetts. The Republic eventually sank, but not before its 1600 passengers and 300 crewmembers were firstly transferred to the Florida and from there to the SS Baltic, which eventually arrived at the scene as a result of the distress call.

Jack Binns was the radio operator aboard the Republic and, despite the radio room being damaged and being

exposed to the elements, he managed to patch up the equipment and continue to transmit for almost two days summoning help and guiding rescue ships to the scene. The Baltic was the first vessel on the scene having searched in the dense fog for over 12 hours.

CQD was the international distress call used at that time. To commemorate the event, EI100CQD took part in the celebrations, along with other stations around the world.

As was considered fitting, CW was the preferred mode of operation. However, on Sunday, the station was also QRV on phone listening for EIs on 2 and 40 metres. Forty was almost unusable for EI but several QSOs were completed on 2 metres.



SS BALTIC The Republic rescue Ship

Tony (EI5EM) was interviewed about the event for Seascapes on RTE1 radio and the programme was transmitted on the date of the centenary. A podcast of the programme is available on the RTE web site.

From SEASCAPES podcast announcement, RTE (Radio Television Ireland) "Radio Operators .. Howth in County Dublin was involved in worldwide celebrations for a hero amongst ships' radio operators - Jack Binns, the first man to use wireless in a rescue operation. He was acclaimed for his efforts during a daring rescue at sea on January 23, 1909 - a century ago .

CQD now SOS

CLICK on this link to hear Tony Breathnach of the Howth Martello Radio Group tell the story.

<<http://dynamic.rte.ie/quickaxs/209-tbreathnach-2009-01-26.smil>>

There is also a clip on youtube.com that can be found by searching youtube for EI100cq (q.v. here is the URL).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_mBWV5Vc50>

For more details on the disaster, see

<<http://www.jackbinns.org/>>

more from Cape Code Online about K2LP

<<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090124/NEWS/901240301>>

and from the BBC on Binns

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/cornwall/7846590.stm>

Hi,

Cruise info

I think we've got it together now, Ashley and I, after some false starts and a lot of worried work on the cruise selection. We're ready.

The attachment is a printable flyer for the Ham Radio Cruise 2010. Mind you I make NO money on these endeavors, I just love to go cruising. I work free for a year to make sure it all works. :-)

We have the ICOM Co. who loan us two stations complete. Then I buy two Tarheel Model 100 antennas and we're good to go. Combining Ham Radio to cruising is just the best of all worlds. We plan to leave Fort Lauderdale, Florida Feb 27th, 2010 and travel for 8 days to the Eastern Caribbean stopping at several exotic ports with 4 days at sea for lots of Ham Radio. Wow. Check out my Web Site too. We had a ball on the last cruise check out some pictures on the web site. At the end of the cruise I sell the equipment at a discount to our guests. You all know that I'm part Scotch and more so when it comes to breaking loose my \$\$\$\$. I have found that cruising gives you a high quality vacation for minimum dollars. It is impossible to duplicate a good cruise even on the best land vacation. Count it up on a daily basis and compare. And by this time you've all got most of your ham station complete so you don't need to buy that Alfa anyway. And the reports I've gotten from most, the wives greatly enjoyed the cruises too.

Head Line Ham Cruise 2010 By Vernon Fix, W4THN /// submitted by Mark, K6FG

Our 3rd Amateur Radio Cruise

Ham Radio Cruise 2010

On the Carnival Freedom
February 27, 2010 for 8 Days

Planned activities include DX & Technical seminars conducted by guest speakers. Work Maritime Mobile and DX from the other side of the DX curtain, attend an invitation only cocktail party, win door prizes and much more !



Cruise from Fort Lauderdale, FL to the Eastern Caribbean on the new Carnival Freedom for 8 days.
With more time for ham radio and other activities
We visit San Juan, PR; St. Thomas, USVI; Antigua; Tortola, BVI; Nassau, Bahamas; and return to Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Some of you may remember on HRC2008 on the Victory, we had so much fun that 6 days seemed not enough, now we have 8 days. This is a new ship but with similar deck plans and we are asking for the same excellent operating positions.

Enjoy a free cocktail Party and \$25 onboard credit per cabin

Pricing:

Inside cabin \$727.88 per person

Balcony cabin \$1107.88 per person

Cat 11 Suite \$1787.88 per person

Deposit \$300/person due by Mar. 5th. . Full payment by Dec. 10th, 2009

Single Traveler room sharing available!

You must book cruise through Mrs. Ashley King in order to participate.

All prices are based on double occupancy and include your cruise fare, government taxes and fees. A fuel surcharge of

\$9/day/person will be added if Oil goes to \$70/bbl.

Travel insurance is optional and strongly recommended. It is available for an additional 7% from ItravelInsured.

Organized by Vernon Fix, w4thn, 757-495-1541, w4thn@arrl.net

Partnering with Ashley King, agent, at 757-410-2510

or MOAA Vacations at 1-800-211-5107

Or visit our website : www.hamradiocruises.com

Radio Stuff for Sale

Submitted by Rick Samoian, K6SR

A friend of mine, Paul Turkheimer, WA6NKL (916) 787-5336 suffered a stroke a while back and is no longer able to operate. I am posting this to help him sell all his amateur radio equipment. Paul is located in Roseville, CA, please contact Paul or his wife Rose, directly if you are interested in purchasing, or don't be shy about making an offer, on any (or all) of the Items:

- 1. Astron RS-35M, 13.8V P/S \$75**
- 2. Kenwood TS-450S HF Rig (10-160M no internal tuner) \$300**
- 3. Autek Filter QF-1A, audio filter, \$ 5**
- 4. Kenwood PC-1A, phone patch \$50**
- 5. 100' of RG-8A \$15**
- 6. Mil dummy-load-wattmeter 15 and 60W 500MHz? \$5**
- 7. Fluke 8000A Digital Voltmeter \$15**
- 8. 4 each, 811A's \$10 each**
- 9. Several 4cx250's. \$20 each**
- 10. Misc. rolls of RG-11 MIL-SPEC coax \$15**
- 11. H/P 400 audio osc. \$ 35_____**

SCDXC OFFICERS 2009 OFFICERS



Tom, N6OT
President

E mail to
callsign
@scdxc.org



Arnie, N6HC
Vice President



Steve, W6NRQ
Secretary and Publisher



Doc, K6OGO
Treasurer



Don, NK6A
Director



Wayne, W6IRD
Director



Mel, K6SY
Membership



Bill Kendrick N6RV
Editor



Past President
Sharon, K6IRD



Store	E-mail	Direct	Toll Free	Fax
Anaheim, C A	ana@hamradio.com	1-714-533-7373	1-800-854-6046	1-714-533-9485
Burbank, C A	bnk@hamradio.com	1-818-842-1786	1-800-854-6046	1-818-842-5283
San Diego, C A	sd@hamradio.com	1-858-560-4900	1-800-854-6046	1-858-560-1705

The DX Store

A Shack on the Belt Free Zone

Heil - Bird - I.C.E - Inrad - Comet

Daiwa - Alpha - DCI

Jim Shryne, N6DHZ

n6dhz@dxstore.com

www.dxstore.com

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tel: (714) 521-8080

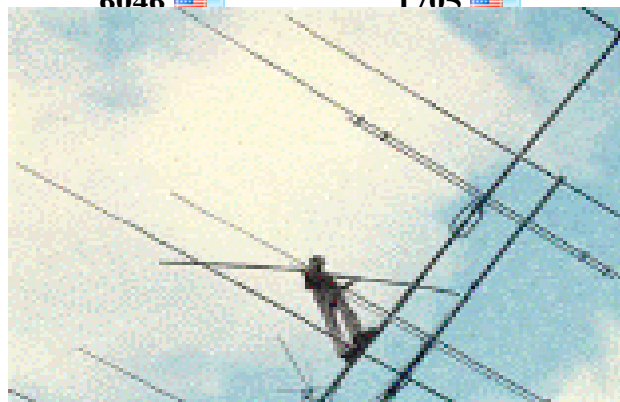
Fax: (714) 521-8920

"Since 1936"
FORD Electronics, Inc.

Electronic Parts Distributor
Wholesale • Industrial • Commercial
Network Equipment

8431 Commonwealth Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621-2527

Email: sales@fordel.com



**Expert Tower and Antenna
Installation, Sales and Service
New and Used Equipment
TV Systems - Satellite TV**

Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y

22712 Califa Street

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

(818) 887-3569

e mail KJ6Y@aol.com

[http://members.aol.com/
kj6y/skip.html](http://members.aol.com/kj6y/skip.html)



hamcity.com

The Wireless Communication Warehouse

**COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE COMPANY**

Sales *Local 310.390.8003 * Fax: 310.390.4393 Email Support * Sales: sales@hamcity.com

Live Support Via Instant Msg* AIM: hamcityim * Yahoo: hamcityim * MSN: sales@hamcity.com

Hours* Monday - Fri: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Pac Std Time* Saturday: Closed * Sunday: Closed